

DESCRIPTION OF THREE NEW SPECIES OF *STIGMODERA* [BUPRESTIDAE].

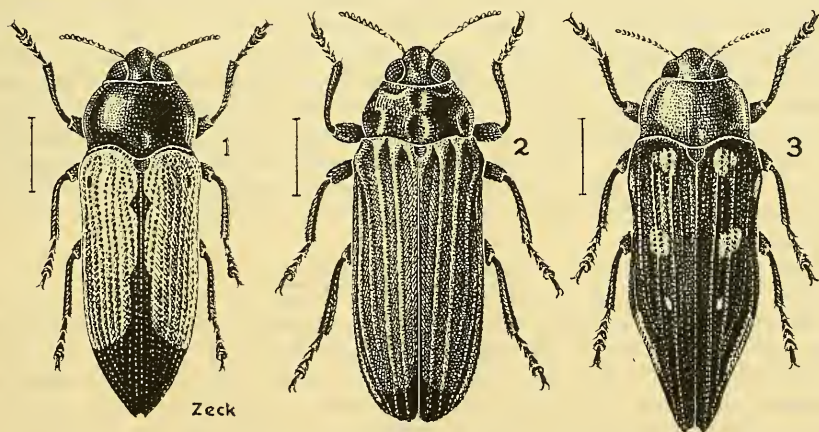
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(Three Text-figures.)

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This paper contains the description of three apparently unrecorded New South Wales Stigmoderae. One of these, *S. sulfurea*, n. sp., is described from a single example. This is unfortunate, as I consider that insufficient material and lack of field experience have been the main causes of errors made in the past, chiefly by oversea writers. Of about 500 species described, some 200 are synonyms, which indicates a lack of realization of the surprising extent of their colour variability.

To illustrate how widely specimens of the same species may differ in colour, I have several examples of *S. delectabilis* Hope from the Illawarra district, which are almost entirely black, having only four very small yellow spots on the elytra



Figs. 1-3.

1, *Stigmodera (Castiarina) sulfurea*, n. sp.—2, *Stigmodera (Castiarina) sexcavata*, n. sp.—3, *Stigmodera (Castiarina) astridae*, n. sp.

and a narrow red line on the post-medial margin, while Victorian specimens are red with two black fasciae and a black preapical spot. Others, from the New England district, are yellow with two green fasciae and green preapical mark, without any red margin. A fourth variety (doubtfully distinct), *S. septemguttata* Waterh., has the fasciae replaced by diamond-shaped, unconnected markings.

Too much importance should not be attached to the coloration and markings. Collecting year after year in widely separated places gives a knowledge of these variations that could probably not be acquired otherwise.

STIGMODERA (CASTIARINA) SULFUREA, n. sp. Fig. 1.

Dimensions: 10 × 3 mm. Elongate, much attenuate at both extremities, especially at the apex. Head and pronotum dark blue; clypeus, antennae, legs and scutellum dark green. Elytra testaceous, underside, suture and wide apical mark blue-black.

Head finely punctate, lightly furrowed longitudinally, this depression slightly iridescent. Pronotum convex, widest at middle, sides well rounded. Scutellum large, cordiform, depressed and iridescent. Elytra elongate, rounded at base; on each shoulder a slight fovea extending to the humeral spot. All intervals convex and finely punctate. Apices finely bispinose, the exterior spine the more prominent, the inner one very short. Suture depressed, the blue line extending to the scutellum, enlarged a little below the latter in a small diamond-shaped spot and gradually widening to a straight apical mark 2 mm. long and covering a shade less than one-fourth of the elytra.

Underside shiny, slightly pilose, finely punctate.

Hab.—Blakebrook near Lismore, N.S.W.

A pretty and distinct species of which I only captured one ♂. In form it is near *S. wilsoni* Saund., though smaller and more acuminate at apex; in markings and colour it resembles *S. fossoria* Carter. Holotype in Coll. Deuquet.

STIGMODERA (CASTIARINA) SEXCAVATA, n. sp. Fig. 2.

Dimensions: 10 × 3½ to 4 mm. Elongate, narrow. Head, pronotum and scutellum bronzy-black; antennae, legs and tarsi bluish-black; elytra brick-red; posterior half of suture only and small straight apical mark black, covering narrowly the extreme apex. Underside blue-black.

Head deeply excavate in the centre, finely punctate. Pronotum punctate, bisinuate at base, surface uneven with six deep foveae, three at the apex and three at base. The two large and rounded central foveae separated by a smaller and narrower ridge than the ridges between the external foveae. Scutellum cordiform and deeply depressed. Elytra with fine seriate punctures as wide as prothorax at base and only slightly wider at shoulders and past the middle; prominently costate, apices sub-truncate. The apical spines only faintly discernible, slightly more in the ♂ than in the ♀.

Hab.—Armidale, N.S.W. Eight examples: 4 ♂, 4 ♀.

This species belongs to the *erythroptera* Group. It has only a restricted habitat while *S. impressicollis* Macl., which it resembles much, is common in the same district. It is also a close ally of *S. latipes* Cart., and to a lesser extent of *S. laevinotata* Cart. The last, however, is of larger size, has no pronounced depression on pronotum and has bidentate apices. *S. latipes* is also larger, with broader legs and tarsi, spinose apex, a smaller apical mark, only four foveae on the pronotum and the black line of the suture extends to the base of the elytra.

From *S. impressicollis* it is differentiated as follows:

<i>S. impressicollis</i> Macl.	<i>S. sexcavata</i> , n. sp.
Prothorax larger.	Prothorax shorter and narrower.
Elytra darker red.	Elytra brighter red.
4 foveae on pronotum and less prominent ridges.	6 foveae on pronotum.
Black suture starts at scutellum but does not reach extreme apex.	Only posterior half of suture and extreme apical mark black.
Has well defined apical dentation.	Subtruncate apices.

Type and other paratypes in Coll. Deuquet. One paratype each to British Museum, Macleay Museum, and National Museum, Melbourne.

STIGMODERA (CASTIARINA) ASTRIDAE, n. sp. Fig. 3.

Dimensions: 9×3 mm. Narrow and elongate, sharply acuminate at apex. Head, pronotum, metallic-green, very faintly punctate. Legs and antennae purplish-blue, underside green, slightly punctate and pilose. Elytra very shiny, dark purplish-green, each with three yellow, elliptical spots, a basal, not quite reaching the margin, a medial a little larger, and a faint but distinct preapical dot; also with two blood-red, marginal marks subhumeral and preapical, the latter being the longer and wider. The basal spot and the preapical dot, unconnected with the red marginal marks. A little below the preapical dot the dark green of the elytra turns to a lovely purple tint.

Head medially channelled, punctate. Pronotum strongly bisinuate at base, anterior margin almost straight, two fairly deep impressions laterally near posterior angle, and at base of medial line a fairly deep oval fovea, showing prismatic reflections, the violet and purple colours predominant. Scutellum small, cordate, flat. Elytra striate-punctate; sides deeply impressed at shoulders. Apices strongly acuminate, bispinose, the interior spine small, the exterior one projecting so that the apices appear almost unidentate.

Hab.—Illawarra Coastal Range, N.S.W.

This little gem, of which I only took four examples, 1 ♂, 2 ♀ and one doubtful, in eleven years, belongs to the *producta* group, and is like a diminutive *S. acuminata* Kerr., though more brilliantly coloured.

The following members of the *S. producta* group are also taken in the Illawarra Coastal Range, chiefly on Lilli-Pilli and other flowering trees: *producta*, *insignis*, *caudata*, *acuminata*, *delta* and *gentilis*. All are much darker than the Northern Rivers and Queensland specimens. With the permission, graciously granted by H. M. Leopold the 3rd, King of Belgium, I have dedicated this lovely species to H.M. the late Queen Astrid, whose noble memory is reverently cherished by all Belgians.

Type in Coll. Deuquet. One paratype each to British Museum, Macleay Museum, and Musée d'Histoire Naturelle, Brussels.
